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February 6, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd
Chief Clerk/Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

**RE: Exploration of a South Carolina Competitive Procurement Program for the Competitive Procurement of Energy and Capacity from Solar and Other Renewable Energy Facilities by an Electrical Utility as Allowed by South Carolina Code Section 58-41-20(E)(2) (See Directive Issued on November 25, 2019)
Docket No. 2019-365-E**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Pursuant to Order No. 2020-85, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ("DEC") and Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP," and, together with DEC, the "Companies") hereby submit this letter to inform the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") of the Companies' suggestions for next steps to conducting a "workshop" to discuss the competitive procurement of energy and capacity from renewable energy facilities under S.C. Code Ann. § 58-41-20(E)(2).

Due to the novelty and complexity of a competitive procurement program contemplated under Section 58-41-20(E)(2), the Companies believe that in-person discussions of this topic would be more beneficial to stakeholders and the Commission, as opposed to the exclusive submission of written comments. The Companies believe that such in-person discussions can be permissibly accomplished without running afoul of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-260(B) in two ways. First, the Commission may establish an intervention deadline for this docket, and upon expiration of the intervention deadline, provide notice of the intended communication, and an opportunity for all parties to participate in the communication. Second, the Commission may conduct an allowable ex parte briefing pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-260(C)(6).

The Companies do not oppose the submission of written comments as proposed by the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") in its February 4, 2020, letter in this docket; however, the Companies believe that such written comments should be followed by an in-person discussion by the interested stakeholders, in a manner compliant with the statutory prohibitions on ex parte communication. To that end, based on conversations with the South Carolina Solar Business Alliance, Inc. ("SCSBA"), the only other party in the docket that intended to provide a presentation

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at the previously-scheduled workshop, SCSBA and Duke are agreeable to collectively requesting a joint allowable ex parte briefing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-260(C)(6), after the submission of comments, as proposed by ORS. Finally, to the extent the Commission requests that interested stakeholders provide such written comments, the Companies request at least 45 days from the date on which the Commission issues an order on this issue, to prepare such comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Dulin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dulin".

Rebecca J. Dulin